

Malayan Pigs.

A Recent Zoological Paper.

G. S. Miller's "Notes on Malayan Pigs."

BY C. BODEN KLOSS, F. Z. S.

One of the most recent of publications dealing with the fauna of the Oriental region is a most interesting and valuable paper by Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, which throws a fresh light on the varieties and distribution of the pigs of the Malayan area.

"Notes on Malayan Pigs" * is based on a quite unique collection of 62 specimens from the Malayan Peninsula and Islands, presented to the U. S. National Museum by Dr. W. L. Abbott, and a small contribution of 4 specimens obtained in Johore by myself. In addition to having all this material to work upon Mr. Miller has also examined the types and collections in the Natural History Museums at Berne, Berlin, Leyden and London.

Excluding the Javan species (as not being yet represented in the U. S. N. M. collection) the pigs of Western Malaya are broadly defined as belonging to one or the other of three groups typified as the *Barbatus* group, the *Cristatus* group and the *Vittatus* group.

In the first group, the "bearded pigs," of greatest local interest perhaps is *Sus oi*, Miller, the species which occurs in the Sumatran area, and is, so far, known from the swampy plains of south-eastern Sumatra, from Banka and from the Rhio Archipelago, where, inhabiting Pulo Battam, it most closely approaches the Straits Settlements.

The other members are *Sus barbatus*, Müller, of Borneo, with which Mr. Miller finds *Sus longirostris*, Nehring, to be

* Proceedings of The United States National Museum, Vol. XXX pages 737-758, with Plates XXXIX—LXIV.

synonymous, and a new species, *Sus gargantua*, founded by Mr. Miller on the skull of a young adult male from south-eastern Borneo. This, besides being the largest of known living pigs (upper length of skull of young adult 570 mm., of old *S. barbatus* 510 mm.), is further distinguished by having its extremely low occipital region produced backwards to a degree quite unknown in others of the group.

The members of the *Cristatus* group are confined to the mainland and the near-by islands. It has long been thought that the wild pig of the Peninsula was the same as the *Sus cristatus*, Wagner, of India proper and when writing a note on the Sumatran *Sus oi* for the Journal (No. 45, p. 60), I stated that "only one species of wild pig is at present known to occur in the Malay Peninsula and that is the animal regarded as identical with *Sus cristatus* of India," but it appears that the animal ranging from Tower Tenasserim southwards must now be separated from the Indian form. It is now described under the name of *Sus jubatus*; and to a form from Pulo Teratau, and perhaps other islands off the west coast of the Peninsula, that is like *jubatus* but not as large, Mr. Miller has given the name *jubatulus*. It is unfortunate however that in making into a separate species an animal that inhabits a shoal-water island situated close to the mainland, the author has only one example to work upon.

The pigs of the *Vittatus* group are purely insular except one new species from the southern extremity of the Malay Peninsula. They range from the Andamans and Nicobars in the west to the Natunas in the east. The typical *Sus vittatus*, Müller and Schlegel, inhabits the mainland of Sumatra and the Rhio Archipelago form now becomes a separate species under the name of *rhionis*. The largest known member of the group, which is specially interesting as inhabiting the Asiatic mainland (so that the Peninsula is now found to possess at least two peculiar pigs), occurs in Johore. This is *Sus peninsularis* and presumably the pig of Singapore Island is of this species also.

The remaining species of this group are widely distributed. On Pulo Nias, on Pulo Babi together with Pulo Tuanku and lastly on Pulo Simalu, all islands of the West Sumatra chain,

are found respectively *Sus niadensis*, *Sus babi* and *Sus mimus* all described for the first time. The animal that occurs in the islands of the Natunas between the Peninsula and Borneo is *Sus natunensis*, Miller, while *Sus nicoboricus*, Miller, is known as yet by specimens from Great Nicobar Island only. The smallest member of the group—smaller even than *nicobaricus* or *mimus*, is *Sus andamanensis*, Blyth. from the Andaman Islands.

The paper contains full descriptions, keys and measurements, and is illustrated by many plates (amongst which are reproductions of a mounted *Sus barbatus*), of mandibular teeth and skulls in various aspects, all of which greatly facilitate the identification of the different species.